

In Memory of
US Army Corporal
Fredrick Ambrose Bald Eagle Bear

Wanblee, South Dakota
Washabaugh County/Jackson County

June 9, 1929 – March 11, 1953
Killed in Action in Korea



Fredrick Ambrose Bald Eagle Bear was born June 9, 1929, to Peter and Mary (Crier) Bald Eagle Bear, at Rosebud in Todd County of South Dakota. He was the second child. His siblings were Lorene, Evangeline, Cecelia, and Joseph Paul. The family lived in Wanblee in Washabaugh County, a county that no longer exists in South Dakota, but is now part of Jackson County. Before he entered the service, Fredrick attended school at Eagle Butte High School. Fredrick first entered the service underage around April of 1946 and completed a tour of duty before reenlisting.

While serving in the Occupation forces in the free territory of Trieste, which was established in 1947 after WW II, Corporal Bald Eagle Bear reenlisted on April 22, 1951. He was a member of Co. L, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. In August of 1952, Corporal Bald Eagle Bear was shipped to the Far East for duty.

On March 11, 1953, Corporal Fredrick A. Bald Eagle Bear was killed in action near Chohanggol, Korea, while fighting the enemy. His parents did not receive the telegram right away because of a blizzard. Several days later, when Peter was able to dig out the team of horses, they found out about Fredrick's death. His body was recovered and later returned to the United States for burial at the Catholic cemetery near Wanblee. Later there was another ceremony when it was learned that Fredrick had posthumously been awarded the Silver Star for saving another soldier's life and sacrificing his own.

Corporal Bald Eagle Bear was also awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Fredrick's mother took his death very hard. She wore the traditional black for over a year while mourning his death. She never fully recovered; she became sick and also died too young. His father lived until he was 84. His sister, Cecelia, died about a year ago. Currently his siblings Evangeline, Lorene, and Joseph Paul survive Fredrick.

This entry was respectfully submitted by Erika R. Carlson, 8th grade, Spearfish Middle School, May 27, 2004. Information for this entry was provided by the ABMC, an application for a SD veteran's bonus, and the SDNGM. Additional information and profile approval by Evangeline Long Soldier, sister, Wanblee.